THAT PLATO REALLY ASSERTED

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'. c/c irivwv yeyowtert, icac

ATH. What beginning shall we say there was of commonwealths? CL. Whence would yourself derive them? ATH. I suppose from a great length and iufiaity of time, through successive changes. OLU I understand not well what you mean. ATH. Thus therefore, do you think, that you are able to determine what length or quantity of time there hath been since cities and polities of men fititt -began ? CL» This is by no means easy to lie done. ATH. Wherefore, there is a kind of infinity and inestimability of this time, CL. It is very true* ATH. Have there not then been innumerable citiea constituted within this time, and as uwiiy again destroyed, of all several forms; they being ctauigedifroni greater to 'lesser, and from gteatet; frito better to worser, and from worger to tetter? — Now, we say, that if Plato intended *hem* to assert an absolute infinity of time past* tiica k must needs be granted, that in his old age, wtitii he wrote his "book of Laws, he changed hisopiitioii it was before when- he wrote -Ms ; and if so, he -ought in ail reason -to r4tmcted>' ike same, which lie does -not but in very truth, the -meaning of this " in those t,wwds cited/- seems to Jbe thia; ^not that thei&'wu 'aa'.abeoliite?m6n!ty -.ortiniti.-IiasV (a* Proolos; ixwtteiicts, takiog= ad valiitagie 'df that word ai^fe) bftit only Ibajttte'WorU* hall lasted 'siltlim length? A£ tilne$_y$ as was ina nFiaooerinestitnaMetii : us, or wncom | *ii table by us; there ha?iog bap